



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-1009

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Liston and Valdez, Neville P., Wilson, Buck, Pabon, Landgraf, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Hansen, Hooton, Lebsock, McKean, Rankin, Reyher, Roberts, Sias, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buckner, Covarrubias, Esgar, Everett, Foote, Garnett, Gray, Hamner, Herod, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Lawrence, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Lontine, Lundeen, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Pettersen, Ransom, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sandridge, Singer, Thurlow, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Winter, Wist, Young, Duran;
also SENATOR(S) Gardner and Garcia, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Guzman, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham.

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE FILLMORE STREET BRIDGE SPANNING INTERSTATE 25 IN COLORADO SPRINGS AS THE "DONALD "DON" STRATTON BRIDGE".

WHEREAS, Donald "Don" Stratton was born in Red Cloud, Nebraska on July 14, 1922; and

WHEREAS, In 1940, at the age of 19, Don Stratton enlisted in the United States Navy, serving as Seaman 1st Class aboard the U.S.S. *Arizona* stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, On the morning of December 7, 1941, Seaman Stratton was on the upper decks of his ship on his way to visit a fellow serviceman in the sick bay when he heard the sounds of planes and then saw explosions in the distance; and

WHEREAS, Realizing immediately that it was Japanese aircraft flying overhead, Seaman Stratton ran to his battle station as sight-setter to calibrate fire at the planes invading the harbor; and

WHEREAS, Facing unrelenting air strikes from above, the munitions aboard the U.S.S. *Arizona* were hit and exploded, burning over sixty percent of Seaman Stratton's body; and

WHEREAS, Seaman Stratton and five other sailors were able to make it off the doomed *Arizona* thanks to a rope thrown to them by a fellow sailor aboard the adjacent U.S.S. *Vestal*; and

WHEREAS, Seaman Stratton was one of only 335 men out of 1,512 aboard the U.S.S. *Arizona* to survive the attack that day; and

WHEREAS, On that "Day of Infamy", 2,403 people died and another 1,143 were wounded, marking the attack on Pearl Harbor as one of the deadliest foreign attacks on United States soil in modern history; and

WHEREAS, Seaman Stratton spent nearly a year in the hospital recovering from the wounds he suffered at the attack on Pearl Harbor and was discharged as a disabled veteran in 1942; and

WHEREAS, Healed and determined to continue to serve his country, Seaman Stratton returned to uniform and rejoined the Pacific fleet, where he served aboard the U.S.S. *Stack* and participated in military landings in New Guinea, the Philippines, and Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, Seaman Stratton was discharged in 1946 at the rank of Gunner's Mate 2nd Class, went on to a successful career as an oil rig seaman and deep sea diver, and he and his wife Velma settled in Colorado Springs; and

WHEREAS, Don Stratton has provided invaluable historical information through the recounting of his experience at Pearl Harbor, and has published a memoir of his personal accounts of the attack, entitled "All the Gallant Men"; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we honor the life and valor of such a hero, so devoted to family and country, and who bore witness to one of the most important events in the history of the United States; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

(1) That the Fillmore Street bridge spanning Interstate 25 in Colorado Springs be designated as the "Donald "Don" Stratton Bridge";

(2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of the initial placement of signs visible from Interstate 25 to mark the bridge as the "Donald "Don" Stratton Bridge"; and

(3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for El Paso County for the maintenance of the markings for the "Donald "Don" Stratton Bridge".

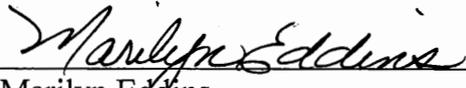
Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to Donald Stratton, Randy Stratton, Governor John Hickenlooper, the Colorado Springs City Council, the El Paso County Board of Commissioners, Congressman Doug Lamborn, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 101, Colorado Springs Council of the Navy League President Tom Gregory, the Peak Military Care Network, the Pikes Peak Heroes Legacy Committee, charitable donor for bridge signage Comcast/NBCUniversal representative Michael D. Nelson, and the Colorado Department of Transportation.



Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES



Kevin J. Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE



Marilyn Edgins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES



Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE